LMSC B030372, 4 of 5

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

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XLVII

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PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE			
ACTION						
INFO						

FROM:
6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF.

TO:
SPACE SYSTEMS DIV LOSA CALIF
VWZD- 1-8-199

SUBJECT; 8-HOUR LAUNCH FLASH REPORT

I. A PROGRAM 622A SATELLITE VEHICLE CONSISTING OF THOR BOOSTER NO. 344 AND AGENA D ORBITAL STAGE NO. 1152 WAS LAUNCHED ON THE SECOND ATTEMPT FROM VAFB COMPLEX 75-1 PAD 1 AT 1717:29.39 PDT ON AUG. 1, 1962. THE PRIMARY LAUNCH OBJECTIVE, TO PLACE THE AGENA SATELLITE WITH PAYLOAD IN A NEAR-POLAR ORBIT, WAS ACCOMPLISHED. THE VTS RADAR PLOTBOARD INDICATED THE TRAJECTORY TO BE NOMINAL UNTIL LOSS OF RADAR TRACK AT T+419 SEC (APPROXIMATELY 23 SEC BEFORE AGENA ENGINE SHUTDOWN.) THE ORBITAL PERIOD ATTAINED APPEARS TO BE NEAR-NOMINAL, BASED ON FIRST PASS ACQUISITION AT KODI.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO [redacted]
By authority of AFR 205-2
7 APR 1966
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10

DATE 3 | TIME
MONTH AUG | YEAR 1962

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TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required)
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PHONE 866-5831 | PAGE NR. | NR. OF PAGES
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DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

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FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF.

PRELIMINARY VALUES OF SIGNIFICANT LAUNCH EVENTS ARE:

LIFTOFF (1717:29.39 PDT)	ZERO	
STEERING INITIATED	92.09	SEC
MECO (S1)	143.10	SEC
VECO	151.95	SEC
ENABLE D1 AND D2 (S2)	148.33	SEC
D1 ON	151.05	SEC
D1 OFF	152.46	SEC
D2 ON	152.62	SEC
D2 OFF	157.72	SEC
SEPARATION COMMAND (S3)	158.48	SEC
SEPARATION COMPLETE	161.0	SEC
ULLAGE ROCKET IGNITION	183.55	SEC
AGENA ENGINE IGNITION	193.6	SEC
AGENA THRUST ATTAINMENT (90 PER CENT PC)	194.75	SEC
AGENA BURNOUT (70 PER CENT PC)	432.58	SEC
AGENA LINK 2 TELEMETRY FADE	N/A	
VTS VERLORT RADAR FADE	419	SEC
VTS ACQUISITION BEACON FADE	496	SEC
VTS TELEMETRY DATA FADE (LINK 1)	482	SEC

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FROM: [redacted]

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II. ALL CRITICAL BOOSTER SUBSYSTEMS PERFORMED SATISFACTORILY AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GROUND GUIDANCE SYSTEM, PROVIDED THE REQUIRED COAST APOGEE CONDITIONS AND CORRECT ATTITUDE FOR THE AGENA.

GROUND GUIDANCE SYSTEM DATA INDICATE THAT BOOSTER COAST APOGEE ALTITUDE WAS 106.76 NM (NOMINAL: 107.38 NM) AND THE VELOCITY WAS 9964 FPS (NOMINAL: 9971 FPS).

III. ALL AGENA VEHICLE SUBSYSTEMS PERFORMED SATISFACTORILY DURING LAUNCH TO PROVIDE THE PROPER TRAJECTORY CONDITIONS AT AGENA ENGINE SHUTDOWN; HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING DISCREPANCIES WERE NOTED:

A. AT T+33.6 SEC, THE HIGH RANGE CONTROL GAS TELEMETRY MEASUREMENT DROPPED FROM ITS PRE-LIFTOFF VALUE OF 3680 PSI TO LESS THAN ZERO AND CONTINUED TO INDICATE ABNORMALLY FOR THE REST OF THE LAUNCH TELEMETRY RECEPTION. THE LOW RANGE PRESSURE MEASUREMENT, HOWEVER, INDICATED A PRESSURE BEYOND ITS 1500 PSI RANGE AND THE BEHAVIOR OF THE CONTROL SYSTEM VERIFIED THAT CONTROL GAS WAS STILL AVAILABLE.

B. THE ROLL ATTITUDE GYRO INDICATED A 1.5 DEG

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FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF. [redacted]

OFFSET

~~OFF~~ DURING THE THRUST INTERVAL WHICH IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO EXTRANEOUS ROLL TORQUE DUE TO MISALIGNMENT.

C. PREMATURE LOSS OF S-BAND BEACON TRACK BY THE VERLORT RADAR AT 4 DEGREES ELEVATION ANGLE APPEARED TO BE DUE TO POOR SIGNAL STRENGTH RETURN.

AT THE TIME OF SIGNAL FADE AT VTS, ALL VEHICLE SUBSYSTEMS WERE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY AND THE ORBITAL TIMER WAS SET AT 5460 SEC (STEP 21), IN THE RESET-ON POSITION, IN THE INCREASE MODE, AND ALTERNATE RE-ENTRY DISARM STATE.

IV. THE AEROSPACE GROUND EQUIPMENT FUNCTIONED PROPERLY TO ACCOMPLISH BOOSTER AND ORBITAL STAGE PRE-LAUNCH CHECKOUT WITH THE FOLLOWING DISCREPANCIES NOTED:

A. AN APPARENT PROBLEM OCCURRED IN THE GUIDANCE GAS LOADING OPERATION. THIS LATER PROVED TO BE DUE TO INHERENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SYSTEM.

B. THE NITROGEN PURGE LINE ON THE MAST WAS BROKEN DURING VEHICLE ERECTION IN THE FIRST COUNTDOWN AND WAS REPLACED.

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FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF. [redacted]

C. VOICE COMMUNICATION WAS LOST MOMENTARILY BETWEEN THE BLOCKHOUSE, THE MAB, AND VTS.

V. THE FINAL COUNTDOWN WAS INITIATED AT 1000 PDT AND PROGRESSED TO LIFTOFF WITH 3 HOLDS TOTALING 17 MINUTES.

HOLD NO. 1 WAS IMPOSED AT 1600 (T-60) FOR 8 MINUTES TO ADJUST FOR A SCHEDULED LIFTOFF TIME OF 1710.

HOLD NO. 2 WAS IMPOSED AT 1658 (T-12) FOR 2 MINUTES TO CLEAR PERSONNEL FROM THE DANGER AREA.

HOLD NO. 3 WAS IMPOSED AT 1710 (T-2) FOR 5 MINUTES FOR RANGE CLEARANCE (AIRCRAFT IN AREA).

THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS AND DELAYS WERE ENCOUNTERED:

TASK 4 WAS 20 MINUTES LONGER THAN NORMAL DUE TO RADIATION INTERFERENCE FROM ANOTHER OPERATION.

TASK 10 WAS DELAYED 50 MINUTES WHEN DIFFICULTY WAS ENCOUNTERED IN LOADING AGENA GUIDANCE GAS.

TASK 11 WAS DELAYED 20 MINUTES DUE TO RADIATION INTERFERENCE FROM ANOTHER OPERATION.

IN PHASE V OF THE TERMINAL COUNTDOWN THE AGENA GUIDANCE GAS PRESSURE MEASUREMENT INDICATED INTERMITTENTLY BUT RETURNED TO NORMAL BEFORE LIFTOFF.

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FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF, [redacted]

THE FIRST COUNTDOWN WAS INITIATED AT 0700 PDT, 31 JULY 1962, AND PROCEEDED TO AGENA PROPELLANT TANKING WHEN HIGHER PRIORITY OF ANOTHER OPERATION FOR THE RANGE FACILITIES CAUSED RESCHEDULING. THE VEHICLE WAS LEET IN ERECT POSITION OVERNIGHT.

PAD DAMAGE WAS NORMAL AND NORMAL TURN-AROUND SCHEDULE IS EXPECTED.

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